

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 ACDA-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 121234Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9122

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 365

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES LEBANON

1. TWO MEMBERS FAHMY'S CABINET, AL-BAZ AND AMR MUSA, APPEARED JANUARY 11 BEFORE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS DISCUSSING FAHMY'S POLICY STATEMENT OF JANUARY 5 (CAIRO 0153). DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND LEBANON AND AL-BAZ'S REMARKS MADE FRONT PAGE OF GUMHURIYYA. AHRAH STORY QUOTES AL-BAZ AS FOLLOWS:

A. ISRAELI INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. EGYPT REJECTS ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. ISRAEL HAS MAJOR INTEREST THERE; "AMERICA IS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE CHRISTIANS;" SYRIA PARTICIPATES IN CURRENT EVENTS; QADDHAFI SUPPORTS THE NASSERISTS TO INCREASE HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS. EVERY TWO WEEKS, 15 MILLION DOLLARS ARRIVE IN LEBANON FROM VARIED SOURCES THROGH SWISS BANKS." SHOULD ISRAEL INTERVENE IN SITATUON THERE, EGYPT NATURALY WILL HASTEN TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES; EGYPT WILL NOT
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STAND IDLY BY."

B. EGYPTIAN "INVOLVEMENT." AL-BAZ REPORTEDLY NOTED THERE ARE "FALSE" ALLEGATIONS THAT EGYPT'S DOMESTIC SITUATION HAS ENCOURAGED GOE TO STIR POT IN LEBANON TO ATTRACT CAPITAL TO EGYPT IN LIGHT OPEN DOOR POLICY. THIS IS UNTRUE. STATISTICS SHOW CAPITALISTS HAVE GONE FROM LEBANON TO GREECE, ITALY, AND EGYPT, BUT "VERY LIMITED NUMBER" HAVE COME TO EGYPT.

C. SYRIAN AND AMERICAN "INVOLVEMENT." ONE ASSEMBLY MEMBER ASKED ABOUT "RUMORED AMERICAN PLOT" TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE IN LEBANON, TO WHICH NO RESPONSE IS RECORDED. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GUM'A SAID HE HAD LEARNED TONY FRANJIYA AND RIF'AT ASAD ARE PARTICIPATING IN DISTRIBUTING ARMS TO KATA'IB, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH CONCERNS ASSEMBLY MEMBERS.

2. COMMENT: AL-BAZ INSERTED NO NEW POLICY FACTORS INTO DEBATE, EMPHASIZING EGYPT STANDS BEHIND LEBANESE UNITY AND WILL ATTEND ANY CONFERENCE DESIGNED PROMOTE SUCH NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. GOE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY MADE PREDICTION ABOUT POLICY IN CASE OF ISRAELI INTERVENTION, AND AL-BAZ'S REMARK THAT CAIRO WOULD NOT STAND IDLY BY STRIKES US AS PRO FORMA STATEMENT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. WE HAVE HEARD ALLEGATION OF TONY FRANJIYA AND RIF'AT ASAD COLLABORATION BEFORE, BUT ONLY CONFIDENTIALLY FROM FAHMY HIMSELF. EILTS

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